

2021 Conference Team Report

This year has been an exciting year for the conference team. Drawing upon all that we learned from last year's conference and the team when we had a virtual-only conference, the team, along with the Board, made the decision. Much like our churches and spiritual communities had to learn to adapt to the changing environment of Covid and the restrictions Covid required all of us to undertake we believe the most responsive to the different needs our members have is to have both a hybrid virtual and in-person event. We believe the hybrid is the format of the future and will allow a greater participation no matter the changing conditions.

This year's conference will be held at the Radisson on the John Deere Commons in Moline and the Convention Center directly across the greenway. Once again, we will use the Whova app for registration and broadcast of the conference events.

The keynote speaker, Rev Sharon Connors is well known to Unity and recently was one of the key presenters at the annual Fillmore Festival. Kim-Char Meredith, the special musical guest, is the Music Director at Unity of Naperville and well known in the Chicago area.

Many of the traditional activities of the Unity Great lakes Conference are planned including, the opening reception, memorial service, ice cream social, LUT lunch, Wednesday evening dinner and concert as well as the many opportunities to connect with friends new and old.

The conference will follow all current Covid guidelines, and we will provide masks and hand sanitizer to support everyone in attendance. Special thanks to Deb Hill Davis who mentored and assisted the team in most aspects of the conference. Her guidance as the former co-chair and assistance with the facility provide the much needed expertise we lacked.

One last piece of information to share. Providing a hybrid format is new. We expect and have the intention of responding to all situations as they arise but acknowledge there may be times where our inexperience shows. Know we are doing the best we can and will learn and grow from our experience.

Have a great conference!

Ray Nelson Conference liaison and co-chair

Cindi Yamamoto conference co-chair

Nancy Berdasco Whova administrator

Karen Onny

Brian Griffin